

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00

MC-02 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /078 W

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R 111020Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9914

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

EUCOM

CINCUSAFE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

USIA WASHDC

USNMR SHAPE

UNCLAS ANKARA 5377

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, TU, CY, GR

SUBJECT: TURKISH PRESS REACTION TO FORD ANNOUNCEMENT

1. DEVELOPMENTS IN U.S. ADMINISTRATION EFFORTS TO LIFT THE ARMS EMBARGO AND REACTION TO THESE EFFORTS BY OFFICIALS IN ANKARA DOMINATED THE FRONT PAGES OF FRIDAY (JULY 11) EDITIONS OF THE TURKISH PRESS. EDITORIAL COMMENT WAS DIVIDED ALONG PARTY LINES AND HEADLINES AND STORIES REFLECTED THE CAUTIOUS TONE OF OFFICIAL TURKISH REACTION. (SEE SEPTTEL)

2. MOST MAJOR DAILIES GAVE BANNER HEADLINE PLAY TO COMMENTS BY PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL AND PRESIDENT KORUTURK OR TO
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UNDER SECRETARY SISCO'S TESTIMONY IN WASHINGTON. AN EXCEPTION WAS CUMHURIYET, WHOSE BANNER HEADLINE REPORTED

THAT TURKEY WILL DEMAND RENT FOR U.S. INSTALLATIONS. ACCORDING TO CUMHURIYET'S UNATTRIBUTED STORY, THE RENT DEMANDED WOULD EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF MILITARY AID GIVEN IN RECENT YEARS. CUMHURIYET ALSO REPORTED IN A FRONT PAGE, PARIS DATELINED STORY THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD TOLD NEWSMEN THAT DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING THE COMMON DEFENSE INSTALLATION "CAN NOW BE UNDERTAKEN IN A MORE PROPITIOUS ATMOSPHERE" AND THAT "THE DECISION TAKEN YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY) IN WASHINGTON WILL BE HELPFUL IN THIS."

3. IN EDITORIAL COMMENT, PRO-DEMIREL SON HAVADIS SAID THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO WILL BE A SUCCESS FOR THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT'S FOREIGN POLICY AND THAT IF THE KIND OF BLACK-MAIL SUGGESTED BY RPP LEADER BULENT ECEVIT HAD BEEN APPLIED, PRESIDENT FORD WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ABLE TO WORK OUT A COMPROMISE WITH CONGRESS.

4. HURRIYET, TURKEY'S LARGEST DAILY, WAS LESS ENTHUSIASTIC. IN ITS LEAD EDITORIAL, THE PAPER ASSERTED THAT THE COMPROMISE AGREEMENT WOULD NOT ONLY NOT RESTORE GRANT AID, BUT WOULD NOT PROVIDE FOR CREDIT SALES OR EXCESS PROPERTY SALES. MOREOVER SALES WOULD CONTINUE ONLY SO LONG AS CONGRESS WAS SATISFIED WITH DEVELOPMENTS ON CYPRUS. HURRIYET CONCLUDED THAT THE COMPROMISE MEASURE BEFORE THE HOUSE, IF PASSED, WOULD NOT HEAL THE WOUND IN TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATION, BUT MERELY COVER IT WITH A BAND-AID.

5. IN OPPOSITION PRESS COMMENT, CUMHURIYET'S LEAD EDITORIAL SAID THAT EVEN THOUGH THE BILL NOW BEFORE THE HOUSE WERE PASSED, ITS PROVISIONS WOULD INFRINGE ON TURKEY'S SOVEREIGN RIGHT TO USE THE ARMS SHE PURCHASES WHERE AND WHEN HE CHOOSES. THE EDITORIAL ASSERTED THAT THE COMPROMISE, FAR FROM PROVIDING A SOLUTION TO TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS, WOULD PLACE THEM IN A MORE DIFFICULT SITUATION. IN THE SAME VEIN, CUMHURIYET COLUMNIST ALI SIRMEN SAID THAT THE ONLY POSITIVE PART OF THE COMPROMISE PLAN IS THAT IT WILL ENABLE TURKEY TO OBTAIN ARMS SHE HAS ALREADY PAID FOR. THE COMPROMISE "MANEUVER" MAY APPEASE THE TURKISH NATION AND HELP TO SAVE THE NATIONAL FRONT GOVERNMENT, SIRMEN SAID, BUT IT
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WILL BE AT THE EXPENSE OF A DELAY IN PLANS FOR DIVERSIFICATION OF ARMAMENTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, SPEECHES, ARMS EMBARGO, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ANKARA05377
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750240-0591
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750762/aaaaccyd.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAR 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <15 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TURKISH PRESS REACTION TO FORD ANNOUNCEMENT
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, TU, CY, GR, (FORD, GERALD R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006